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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9695  
INFO RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 2537  
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0188  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 4234  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 1341  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2108  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 7170  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 8404  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5764  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1100  
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 3271  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 6325  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 2546  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 0899  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2451  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAO](#) [PK](#)  
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA SITUATION: JUNE 7 UPDATE

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 2526

[1](#)B. ISLAMABAD 2494

[1](#)1. (SBU) MEDIA PROTESTS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. Evening of June 6, the Pakistani press corps that regularly covers the National Assembly began a "walk-out" from the Assembly to protest the new PEMRA ordinance regulating the electronic media (see para 2). According to a media contact, while Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sher Afgan Niazi and Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Tariq Azeem attempted to talk to the journalists, a crew from PTV was filming non-journalists who had filled some of the seats in the press gallery. Several journalists returned to the press gallery and asked these non-journalists to leave. A "fight" or "altercation" ensued. PTV carried footage of the brawl on June 7. No one was arrested or detained. A media contact, however, told the Embassy that the National Assembly has rescinded all journalists' credentials and will issue new ones. The media contact's expectation is that re-issuance will be "selective."

[1](#)2. (SBU) NEW PEMRA ORDINANCE WILL NOT GO INTO EFFECT PENDING INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE REVIEW. Prime Minister Aziz chaired a meeting late June 7 with other senior members of the government (Information Minister Durrani, Information Secretary Anwar Mahmood and PML-Q Secretary General Mushahid

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Hussain) and leaders of major media associations All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) and Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA). They agreed to form a six member committee to review the PEMRA ordinance. The Prime Minister also agreed that the government would not take any actions under the new ordinance until the committee reports to the Prime Minister. No date was set, but the committee agreed that a report should be submitted "in the shortest possible time."

¶3. (U) GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWS CASE AGAINST PROTEST BY 200 JOURNALISTS. Separately, Prime Minister Aziz ordered the withdrawal of a case that had been filed Monday against 200 journalists who had demonstrated in front of the Prime Minister's Secretariat on June 4.

¶4. (SBU) PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF was scheduled to address the nation tonight. This was published in several papers today. Media contacts told us this afternoon (June 7), however, that the President has "changed his mind" and "may address the nation in a few days."

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